

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A content acquisition method characterized by comprising:

~~a file request information sending step of, in response to a request for content data, sending file request information that requests an acquire/use file storing acquire/use content identification information including and content data attribute information, to an acquire/use information providing device in response to a request for content data[ , ];~~

~~an information receiving step of, in response to said sent content data request, receiving via a proxy device for undertaking some of functions of the content receiving side, said acquire/use file that stores the content identification information and said attribute information of said content data sent by said acquire/use information providing device data in a portion where such in response to the content data request, said content identification information and content attribute information are stored in a data area such that no information is [[not]] removed when the acquire/use file passes through said proxy device[ , ];~~

~~a content request information sending step of sending content request information requesting said content data [[to]] from a content providing device according to said acquire/use information contained in said acquire/use file[ , ];~~ and

~~a content receiving step of receiving said content data sent by said content providing device in response to the transmission of said content request information.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The content acquisition method according to claim 1, characterized in that ~~said wherein the attribute information corresponding to said content data comprises includes data size information of said content data.~~

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The content acquisition method according to claim 2,  
~~characterized by further~~ comprising:

~~a comparison step of~~ comparing said data size information of said content data contained in said acquire/use file with [[the]] ~~a~~ free space of a recording media to be used to record said content data upon reception[[,]]; and

~~a notification step of, based on the results of said comparison by said comparison step,~~ notifying a lack of said free space in said recording media for storing the content data if said free space in said recording media is insufficient.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The content acquisition method according to claim 2,  
~~characterized by further~~ comprising:

~~a determination step of, after receiving said content data,~~ comparing the data size of received [[said]] content data with said data size information of said content data contained in said acquire/use file, and determining whether ~~or not said~~ the content data [[is]] has been successfully received.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The content acquisition method according to claim 2,  
~~characterized in that wherein:~~

said ~~information~~ receiving via a proxy device [[step]] receives said acquire/use file sent in compliance with HTTP (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol) from said acquire/use information providing device, said acquire/use file storing said content identification information and said attribute information of said content data in its main section.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An acquire/use information providing method  
~~characterized by~~ comprising:

~~a request information receiving step of receiving file request information [[for]] requesting an acquire/use file that stores acquire/use content identification information containing and content attribute information of content data, sent by a content acquisition device in response to a request for the content data by a content data acquisition device; and an information sending step of, in response to the received file request information, sending via a proxy device for undertaking some of the functions of the content receiving side to said content acquisition device, said acquire/use file that stores content data content identification information and the attribute information of the content data in a portion where such, said content identification information and content attribute information are stored in a data area such that no information is [[not]] removed when the acquire/use file passes through said proxy device, in response to the received file request information.~~

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The acquire/use information providing method according to claim 6, characterized in that wherein said attribute information corresponding to said content comprises data includes data size information of said content data.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The acquire/use information providing method according to claim 7, characterized in that wherein said information sending via a proxy device [[step]] sends said acquire/use file in compliance with HTTP (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol), said acquire/use file storing said content identification information and said data size information of said content data in its main section.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A content acquisition device characterized by comprising:

a file request information sending unit configured to send means of, in response to a request for content data, sending file request information that requests an acquire/use file storing acquire/use content identification information including and content data attribute information, to an acquire/use information providing device in response to a request for content data [[,]];

an information receiving unit configured to receive means of, in response to said sent content data request, receiving via a proxy device for undertaking some of functions of the content receiving side, said acquire/use file that stores the content identification information and said attribute information of said content data sent by said acquire/use information providing device data in a portion where such in response to the content data request, said content identification information and content attribute information are stored in a data area such that no information is [[not]] removed when the acquire/use file passes through said proxy device[[,]];

a content request information sending unit configured to send means of sending content request information requesting said content data [[to]] from a content providing device according to said acquire/use information contained in said acquire/use file[[,]]; and

a content receiving unit configured to receive means of receiving said content data sent by said content providing device in response to the transmission of said content request information.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The content acquisition device according to claim 9, characterized in that said wherein the attribute information corresponding to said content data comprises includes data size information of said content data.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The content acquisition device according to claim 10, characterized by further comprising:

a comparison unit configured to compare means of comparing said the data size information of said content data contained in said acquire/use file with [[the]] a free space of a recording media to be used to record said content data upon reception[[,]]; and

a notification unit configured to notify means of, based on the results of said comparison by said comparison means, notifying a lack of said free space in said recording media for storing the content data if said free space in said recording media is insufficient.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The content acquisition device according to claim 10, characterized by further comprising:

a determination unit configured to compare means of, after receiving said content data, comparing the data size of received [[said]] content data with said data size information of said content data contained in said acquire/use file, and determining determine whether or not said the content data [[is]] has been successfully received.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The content acquisition device according to claim 10, characterized in that wherein:

said information receiving unit is configured to receive means receives said acquire/use file sent in compliance with HTTP (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol) from said acquire/use information providing device, said acquire/use file storing said content identification information and said attribute information of said content data in its main section.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An acquire/use information providing device characterized by comprising:

a request information receiving unit configured to request means of receiving file request information for requesting an acquire/use file that stores acquire/use content identification information containing and content attribute information of content data, sent by a content acquisition device in response to a request for the content data by a content data acquisition device; and

an information sending unit configured to send means of, in response to the received file request information, sending via a proxy device ~~for undertaking some of the functions of the content receiving side~~ to said content acquisition device, said acquire/use file that stores content data content identification information and the attribute information of the content ~~data in a portion where such, said content identification information and content attribute information are stored in a data area such that no information is [[not]] removed when the acquire/use file passes through said proxy device.~~

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The acquire/use information providing device according to claim 14, characterized in that: said wherein the attribute information corresponding to said content comprises includes data size information of said content data.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The acquire/use information providing device according to claim 14, characterized in that wherein said information sending unit is configured to send means sends said the acquire/use file in compliance with HTTP (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol), said acquire/use file storing said content identification information and said data size information of said content data in its main section.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A content acquisition computer readable recording medium storing a program for performing, which when executed by a processor, causes the processor to execute a procedure comprising:

~~a file request information sending step of, in response to a request for content data, sending file request information that requests an acquire/use file storing acquire/use content identification information including and content data attribute information, to an acquire/use information providing device in response to a request for content data[[],];~~

~~an information receiving step of, in response to said sent content data request, receiving via a proxy device for undertaking some of functions of the content receiving side, said acquire/use file that stores the content identification information and said attribute information of said content data sent by said acquire/use information providing device data in a portion where such in response to the content data request, said content identification information and content attribute information are stored in a data area such that no information is [[not]] removed when the acquire/use file passes through said proxy device[[],];~~

~~a content request information sending step of sending content request information requesting said content data [[to]] from a content providing device according to said acquire/use information contained in said acquire/use file[[],]; and~~

~~a content receiving step of receiving said content data sent by said content providing device in response to the transmission of said content request information.~~

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): An acquire/use information providing A computer readable recording medium storing a program for performing which when executed by a processor causes the processor to execute a procedure comprising:

~~a request information receiving step of receiving file request information [[for]] requesting an acquire/use file that stores acquire/use content identification information containing and content attribute information of content data, sent by a content acquisition device in response to a request for the content data by a content data acquisition device; and an information sending step of, in response to the received file request information, sending via a proxy device for undertaking some of the functions of the content receiving side to said content acquisition device, said acquire/use file that stores content data content identification information and the attribute information of the content data in a portion where such, said content identification information and content attribute information are stored in a data area such that no information is [[not]] removed when the acquire/use file passes through said proxy device, in response to the received file request information.~~